

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-11
NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 SS-15 AID-05 A-01 ABF-01
/098 W

-----089621 231709Z /53

R 231604Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0005
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 07927

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, UN, LA
SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF UNFDAC/LAOS PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 119160, (B) GENEVA 7008

SUMMARY: UN NY HAS RECEIVED LPDR LETTER REQUESTING
TERMINATION OF DRUG CONTROL OFFICE IN VIENTIANE. REXED
IS RECOMMENDING PROMPT COMPLIANCE ALONG WITH OFFER OF
FUTURE UNFDAC ASSISTANCE WHENEVER DESIRED. MISSION
RECOMMENDS DEPARTMENT REQUEST USUN TO CONVEY USG
SATISFACTION WITH REXED HANDLING OF MATTER TO HIGHEST
LEVEL UN NY. END SUMMARY.

1. UNFDAC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REXED GAVE MISSION OFFICER
COPY OF LETTER DATED 26 APRIL 1978 FROM LPDR MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRES A.I. KHAMPHAY BOUPHA TO SYG WALDHEIM
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REQUESTING THE ENDINP OF THE UN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL OFFICE
IN VIENIANE. REXED RECEIVED IT FROM MR. ARNAUD,
DIRECTOR, UN PROGRAM FOR DRUG ABUSE IN LAOS, WHO IS IN
GENEVA ON CONSULTATIONS. FOLLOWING IS TEXT IN UNOFFICIAL
TRANSLATION:

BEGIN TEXT: AS YOU KNOW, AFTER NATIONAL

LIBERATION AND THE INSTALLATION OF THE LAO PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, OUR GOVERNMENT DECLARED THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY AS A NATIONAL PRIORITY, IN TAKING AGRICULTURE AS A BASE, ACCENT BEING PUT UPON THE CONSTRUCTION OF SYSTEMS OF IRRIGATION, WITH A VIEW TO ARRIVING AT SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOODS AND TO PROGRESSIVELY IMPROVING THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE LAO PEOPLE. THE FIGHT AGAINST THE ABUSE OF DRUGS CONSTITUTING A PRIORITY TASK, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LAO PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC HAD REQUESTED THE ASSISTANCE OF THE UN FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL AND SIGNED WITH THE FUND AN AGREEMENT FOR ASSISTANCE IN THIS DOMAIN. HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THAT THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE IS POSED NO LONGER AT PRESENT, THE GOVERNMENT HAVING BEEN ABLE TO RESOLVE IT BY ITSELF IN A SATISFACTORY MANNER. THAT IS WHY THE MAINTENANCE OF AN OFFICE OF UNFDDAC IN VIENTIANE IS NO LONGER NECESSARY.

ALSO, I HAVE THE HONOR TO REQUEST, MR. SECRETARY GENERAL, THAT YOU BE SO KIND AS TO ASK THE UN DIVISION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS TO TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO PUT AN END TO THE MISSION OF THE UNFDDAC OFFICE IN VIENTIANE.

I THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT AND AID WHICH THE UN HAS PROVIDED OUR COUNTRY AND PRAY YOU TO ACCEPT, MR. SECRETARY GENERAL, THE ASSURANCE OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

END TEXT.

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2. REXED NOTED THAT LPDR BASED ITS REQUEST FOR ENDING THE UN NARCOTICS OFFICE IN VIENTIANE ON THE CLAIM THAT NO DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM PRESENTLY EXISTS IN LAOS. HE EXPRESSED HIS OWN THOUGHTS THAT LPDR IS EITHER UNABLE TO PROVIDE A SITE IN ACCORD WITH LAST NOVEMBER'S AGREEMENT BECAUSE OF A DETERIORATING SECURITY SITUATION IN THE MOUNTANEOUS AREAS, OR IS UNWILLING TO DO SO, HAVING MADE A POLICY DETERMINATION TO MOVE THE HIGHLAND PEOPLES INTO AGRICULTURAL AREAS IN THE PLAINS.

3. REXED STATED THAT UN NY HAS RECEIVED THE LAO LETTER AND THAT HE IS RECOMMENDING TO HEADQUARTERS THAT IT RESPOND PROMPTLY AGREEING TO EARLY CLOSURE OF UNFDDAC OFFICE IN VIENTIANE BUT OFFERING ASSISTANCE OF UNFDDAC AND DIVISION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS WHENEVER LPDR MIGHT WISH IT IN FUTURE IN ORDER TO COMBAT DRUG PROBLEM.

4. MISSION OFFICER CONVEYED TO REXED (PER REF A) US SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR HIS CONCEPT OF UNFDDAC SUPPORTING NARCOTICS ADVISER ON UNDP STAFF. REXED EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR US INTEREST AND SAID HE WOULD

PROMOTE, AS OPPORTUNITIES PRESENT, IDEA OF FUND MAINTAINING A PRESENCE THROUGH AEGIS OF UNDP OR FAO.

5. ON BASIS CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS, MISSION HAS IMPRESSION THAT REXED IS RECEIVING STATIC FROM UN OFFICIALS WHO FAVORED UNFDAC BOWING TO LPDR DEMANDS AND CHANGING LAST NOVEMBER'S AGREEMENT TO PERMIT SELECTION BAN DONE SITE, DESPITE US OBJECTIONS TO THAT SITE ON TECHNICAL, POLITICAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS. REXED OPPONENTS HAVE EASY ACCESS TO SYG THROUGH FAMILY MEMBER LOCATED GENEVA. TO ENSURE SYG GETS STORY FROM US VIEWPOINT, MISSION STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT REQUEST

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 07927

USUN, AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL, TO INFORM SYG THAT USG IS GRATIFIED BY REXED'S WISE HANDLING OF DIFFICULT SITUATION PRESENTED BY LPDR UNREASONABLE DEMANDS RE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURAL RESETTLEMENT PROJECT.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 may 1978
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2608597
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TERMINATION OF UNFDAC/LAOS PROGRAM
TAGS: SNAR, LA, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
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